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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Gail Borden Public Library District was recently named the North Suburban Library System's Library of the Year; and

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WHEREAS, Gail Borden Public Library was founded with an innovative and community spirit; Gail Borden, the library's namesake, invented condensed milk to improve public health standards; innovation and a strong sense of community continue to be hallmarks of the library to this day as it continues to reaffirm that a public library is a vibrant community center; and

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WHEREAS, Throughout Gail Borden Library's history, there have been many firsts: the first public library in Illinois to adopt an optical scanner for checkout of materials (1974); the first library in the country to create a center for preschoolers, offering intellectual and social stimulation in a creative, hands-on environment (1977); one of the first libraries in the country to install a fiber optic network, linking the library with the City, Elgin Community College, School District U46, and the local cable company (1996); other distinguishing hallmarks include service to the Hispanic population, dating from the mid-1970s with the addition of Spanish-language materials and a bilingual staff member, and formation of a steering committee which led to the creation of Literacy Volunteers of America/Elgin affiliate (1984), which continues to offer tutoring for adult new readers; and

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WHEREAS, An integral part of the educational community, the library continually seeks to provide cooperative programs and to share expertise; this can range from class visits to book talks for school library colleagues or mentoring a library school intern; this year, the library's ReaderShip van visited 254 preschools and day care centers, providing stories, puppet

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1 shows, and music for children as well as reading tips for
2 teachers and parents; the Youth Services Department hosted a
3 two-week educational series on poetry for Hamilton Wings, an
4 art-based organization for low income and minority children;
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6 WHEREAS, Most recently, the library hosted "GIANTS:
7 African Dinosaurs Created by Project Exploration"; this
8 multi-faceted project, supported by the Grand Victoria
9 Foundation, Elgin Noon Kiwanis, and the Gail Borden Library
10 Foundation, showcased newly discovered African dinosaurs that
11 lived 135 million years ago, including towering skeletons,
12 original fossil material, touchable exhibitory, and
13 interactive components; this exhibit brought together 225
14 community volunteers, 50 businesses, organizations, and civic
15 groups, 11,000 child visitors, and 1,500 people who viewed the
16 exhibit; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we recognize the amazing efforts of the Gail Borden Public
20 Library District that led to it being named the North Suburban
21 Library System's Library of the Year; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
23 presented to the Gail Borden Public Library.